

## 1918-1919 w w I letters

### Entries from Reed Parent's diary of being drafted into the Army in WW1. (typed by Sarah Parent Hawk, May, 2008)

June 18, 1818 - All the boys have left, no one in town. Got my notice for Army.

June 19 - Can't enlist, now must wait. More money to come yet. Went fishing.

June 20 - Nothing to do. No luck at fishing.

June 21 - No news at all

June 22 (Sat) - Go to see G. tonight, must come home for tomorrow.

June 23 (Sun) - Lots of company, lots of fun. Last Sun at home for a long time. Took good look at things.

June 24 - Toolie took me to R-ville tonite. Stayed there tonite. Am soldier. Not much rest, rain.

June 25 - Left for Camp Sherman this a.m. Fine trip but tiresome. Got here at 12:15 a.m., left R-ville at 7:30 a.m. Not much sleep.

June 26 - Nothing to do here, just look wise and tramp around - hot, tiresome. Don't feel good. Wrote home.

June 27 - Got our first shot. Lots fainted, in for 2 weeks. Not so bad after all. No breakfast. Wrote to G.

June 28 - Arm better, not much to do. Wrote home. Have fine officers (n.c.) Got suit.

June 29 - Everything going fine. Like it better every day. Good grub, lots of sleep.

June 30 (Sun) - Nice day, rained. Lots of visitors. Chicken and ice cream for dinner. Hot, then cold. Got 2 pair shoes.

July 1 - Army life great game. Cold as dickens. Lots of drill

July 2 - Warm, more drill. A work out tomorrow. Ball game.

July 3 - Hot. Squad drill in a.m., on drill fields in p.m. Ball game. Another shirt.

July 4 - No drill today. Lots of women and aeroplains.

July 5 - Got second shot. Got sore as devil. Missed retreat.

July 6 - Sick, oh Lord. Missed everything but was excused.

July 7 (Sun) - Feeling some better, but awful headache. Wrote to Mother. Rained today.

July 8 - Still feeling bad but drilled anyway. Wrote to G. Cold.

July 9 - Cool but warmed up. Drilled all day - hot. Have to get onto it good. Cool in eve.

July 10 - More drill today. Letter from Glad. Wrote G. Company drill today.

July 11 - Still more drill. Wrote G again. She is finding fault with me, poor me.

July 12 - Got third shot. Not so bad but sick. Will be transferred soon.

July 13 - Lots of mail today. G wrote she was at Peg's. Wish I was there too. I'd make her think I hadn't forgot her.

July 14 (Sun) - Out of quarantine, hot. Got cigarettes from Dom. Good kid. Lots of visitors. G is getting better.

July 15 - Worked hard today. Letter from G. Wrote to G. Hot day. G great girl.

July 16 - Rained. Not much work. Wrote G. Letter from G. The Pal of my heart. Sure a good one.

July 17 - Arm awful tired and sore. Wrote G.

July 18 - Transferred to Co C, 336. Hot day. Crowded quarters.

July 19 - Start drilling here, sharp and snappy.

July 20 - Wrote G and home. Awful hot.

July 21 (Sun) - In kitchen, hard work. Got rifles. Greasy, Oh Lord. Missed week's washing, Oh hell.

July 23 - Lots of drill. Had our guns out. Got our quinine. Got mail from G and home.

July 23 - Put packs together, lots of rifle drill. Lots of blisters. Letter from G.

July 24 - Rained. Paper from home, no news. Was made acting corp until Rademaker returns.

July 25 - Rained. Letter from G. Drill with packs. Pitched tents. Lots of work. Insp. tomorrow. 60 lb pack, Oh hell. Acting corp.

July 26 - Real storm. Insp. at 6 a.m. Called at 3:30, made it OK. Not much work today. Candy from only true Pal, wrote G.

July 27 - Hot. No rest for the wicked, that's us.

July 28 (Sun) - Chased over camp, saw lots of boys.. Awful hot. To K.C. show in eve. Rifle range in a.m.

July 29 - To rifle range, 5 mi. Hot. Gun kicks like hell. Done some good shooting.

July 30 - Rather stiff, lots of drill. Getting harder. Candy from G. Sweet girl, a sure nuff pal.

July 31 - 10 mile hike today, came in tired, full packs, 60 lb. Nothing to do in eve.

Aug 1 - Hard drill today on Parade. Go to range in a.m. Cool this eve.

Aug 2 - On range. Was telephone orderly. Sleepy job, not much work. To show by request. Hell's fire.

Aug 3 - Some said payday but lied. Cigaretts from home. Wrote home. Got some stamps too.

Sept 3 - Sailed away for France. I didn't know then what I do now.

**Letters from Reed Parent to Gladys Hendrix while he was in the Army in France in WW I interspersed with the diary he kept during those months. She had these when she died, and re read them often. She didn't like his "bad language" in the diary and tried to discard it when she lived with us, but I rescued it from the trash. I typed them exactly as he wrote them. I can't explain all the references, and he used a lot of French words as he had learned some French. When I could identify a person I did, but I can't identify all people with the nicknames he uses. In 2006 I wrote to the Military Archives to try to get Reed's service record, but they replied that records covering the period from 1912 to 1959 were destroyed in a fire on July 12, 1973 and cannot be reconstructed. Sarah Hawk**

Camp Sherman. 8/14, 1918

My Dearest Girl,

Will start you a letter just after dinner. I have sure been on the hop. I got by with the guard stunt OK but did not get relieved until 8 p.m. when we should have been relieved at 6:00, almost missed supper. Then by that time I was tired and sleepy enough for bed.. Then hard drilling. C Co. was reorganized again yesterday. I was changed to a different platoon and squad. I sure had a narrow escape yesterday. The Machine Gun Capt. came down to pick out some men with High School education. When I and another fellow stepped out, the Capt sent the first Sergt. down to head us off. We were ordered to break thru ranks and get behind then he chased us inside and told us to hide until said Capt left. The same we did. I am mighty glad that Capt Adams wanted to keep me. A Machine gunner's life is averaged at 20 min at the front. Then Capt put us in charge of another squad. I get released from kitchen duty or room orderly, nothing but Guard duty.

After supper

Well I will resume. Just got a long letter from you. It was a dandy too, dear. Glad, every day is moving my stay shorter. Our overseas clothes are being issued every day. One can not even get a 36 hr pass. Everything is hustle and bustle. Only a few short days dearest and I'll be started to where - we don't know. We never get our evenings any more. It's from daylight to dark now. We have been released from our lines to pack up. I wish I knew where we were bound but they won't tell us a word. It has been so awful hot here this last week but we have kept going as long as we could. I had a letter from Dom (**Ronald, Reed's younger brother**) this eve. He says Muelke is expecting to be called about the 22. I too had a dream the other night, Glad. I dreamed that you were with me. I had on my uniform. But I couldn't make out where we were, you looked so pleased and happy. Glad I sure would like to be with you a while. I realize Glad how serious it is now. Probably you have before now. But Glad I hate to go away from you now. Please don't think me cowardly dearest but I want to stay near my Heart's Desire and that is you Glad. God grant that I may come back to you sometime. I don't know how long I'll be away dearest but think of me often and wonder how your Soldier lad is getting along. Glad, my heart is back in Indiana with my darling girl on a farm there. Everything there is a plain picture to me tonight. The house, barn, trees, old wellpond, woods, falls and the road Toolie and I traveled so lightheartedly to see our Girls. Ah Glad, you can't realize how these scenes come back to me away down here in Southern Ohio, ready any day to make a Gamble with the Hun.

I was talking to a Sergeant this eve and he said I was making good and there was a fine chance for me to get two stripes - a Corporal. That raises my pay and gives me better accommodations but harder work. The latter I have always been used to. There were about 30 of

us picked out of 250, how does that listen? Well, Glad I have always tried to do right in anything I undertook. And when a fellow gets a lift he appreciates it. I sure want to see you bad Gladys. I live in hopes dearest that I can return soon to my darling Pal.

After dinner

Some way or other I looked for a letter today, probably I will get one yet. We had a dandy shower last night. It was rather cool out this a.m. but has warmed up. Well dear, this is all the paper I have so must cut this short. I will write again soon and you must do the same. My mail will follow me. So long, Lots of Love, Your Own Reeder -s

(I have an envelope postmarked Hempstead, New York, Aug 30, 1918 with return address "Camp Mills" but there was no letter.)

#### From Reed's WW1 diary

Sept 3 - Left Camp Mills at 4 a.m. Boarded SS Ajax 10 a.m. Set sail that eve in fine weather.

Sept 10 - Schedule for day:

7:30 to 8:30 - School of the squad  
8:30 to 9:30 - Practice in throwing dummy hand grenades  
9:30 to 10:30 - Exercise in giving commands  
10:30 to 11:30 - Conference, miner tactics  
1:30 to 2:00 - Bayonet and physical training  
2:00 to 2:30 - Preliminary musketry  
2:30 to 3:30 - Nomenclature and operation of Cauchat Aut. Rifle  
3:30 to 4:30 - Construction of the service grenade.

Sept 16 - Arrived in Bristol channel in a.m. landed 4 p.m. Boarded train for Ramsey, arrived about midnight. Hiked about 2 miles in rain to Camp Woodley.

Somewhere in France 9/16/ 1918

Dearest Gladys,

Probably you think that I am a long time dead and gone, but nix on that stuff. Am still alive and well and have seen a lot of country since I left the States. We first landed in England. That is sure a pretty country but \_\_\_\_\_ . (the rest of the sentence is erased, censored?) Then we came into France. This sure is an odd country. The Country is not nearly as picturesque as England but the people\_\_\_\_\_. France is quite a bit behind the States in many respects. I guess I never did see any grapes until we hit here - all sizes, colors and tastes. We had a very lucky trip across the pond. No excitement in the least

A good sized bunch of mail come in last week but I was unlucky on that line. I will get letters the next time, I recon.

I sure would like to see you little Girl, and if the boys keep after the sauerkrauts like they have lately probably I will be back in the States. And as soon as I land back in God's country I'll be right down to eat a big Sunday dinner with you. I sure would like to know what is going on around the old home place.

Say, old Milt Scott's nephew waltzed into this billet and asked for me. Said he got a letter from Mary and she told him where I was. So he come around and we had quite a chat. I never have run across any of the home boys that come before me. Guess they are all too far away from here. I sure have been a Globe Trotter for some time and not thru yet till I hit the States again.

Well Dearest I guess I have written all I can so had better close or else the Censor might not let it pass.

Don't worry dearest for I am well and having the time of my life. So long, good luck and all my love,

Always your own  
Corp Reed Parent  
Co C 336 U.S Inf  
American E. F. France

(All Reed's overseas letters are signed this same way, with his full name and address. They are written on American YMCA stationery with the signature of the 1st Lt. as censor on the last page. The envelopes carry an official stamp and initials of the censor. No postage stamp, just "soldier's mail" written there. The postmark is "U.S. Army Postal Service")

*Sept 18 - Left camp W. about 9:00 a.m., arrived South Hampton 3:00 p.m. Some hike o'hell.*

*Boarded troop ship Londonderry at 6:30 p.m. Sailed out 7:00 p.m. across English channel that night.*

*Sept 19 - Thurs. Landed at Cherbourg, France, 7 a.m. Hiked 5 miles to rest camp.*

*Sept 20 - Fri. Left camp 11:30 a.m., hiked back to Cherbourg. Boarded train about 4:00 p.m.  
"Started touring"*

*Sept 22 - Sun. Arrived Monport 2:00 a.m. Slept in rain in park. Assigned to billets about 8 a.m.*

*Oct 7 - Transferred 214 men from Co. Was assigned to stay with Co..*

Somewhere in France 10/ 9 1918

My dearest Glad,

Will try to answer your most welcome letter that I received a couple of days ago. Sure glad to hear from you, dear, and thanks for the snapshots. Yep, they look natural all right. Sometimes I take a dreamy spell and find myself back in old Indiana and you could guess what part of the state I would be roaming in (?). I got a letter from Shady (**Flayde, Reed's older brother.**) the other day and he said you got a school close to home, that's good. So Eva got married eh. I kinda expected it still I wasn't looking for it so soon.

Say this language sure is fierce. All I can do is make signs. Talk about wine - they never drink water over here. I don't blame them much for the water here is fierce. Glad, the customs of these people would sure make you laugh. You see a donkey pulling a load that you would be ashamed to hitch a horse to there in the States. They use oxen mostly here. I saw one that was almost as tall as I, he sure was a bouncer. I think Noah fed him on the ark he looked that old.

Lena (**Glad's older sister**) teaches at Lodi, does she? What room did she get? I recon Toolie (**Ralph, Reed's brother**) is satisfied ha! ha! Did you ever notice how they almost always had it on us in that respect. It darn near makes me sore, But we'll show those birds yet (?)

Is there any excitement back there at all or is it just the same 5 & 6? Is the Ford in running order yet? Have they had any more Red Cross dances yet, ha!

I haven't seen any home boys at all yet. I am going to chase out to the hospital some of these days to see if I can find any of the unlucky lads.

I must close dear. Write me whenever you can. Good luck and all my love,  
your Corp Reed Parent

Nov 6 - Left Monpont , train for -?

Nov 7 - Arrived LeMons about noon. Hiked 8 K to forwarding camp. Arrived about 5:15 p.m.  
Pitched pup tents, rained all night.

Nov 8 - Left camp about 10 a.m. Hiked to Belgium - Camp Dauvours. 12 K in hard cold rain.  
Arrived B camp about 7 p.m.

Nov 9 - Left B camp 11 a.m. hiked to Connerie 10 K arrived there about 4:30 p.m. 333 and 336  
together. Capt J. Smith. Assigned to billets.

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*Schedule for 11/10/1918 Morning*

7:30 to 8:30 - Close order drill

8::30 to 9:30 - Throwing practice, hand grenade.

9:30 to 10 - Nomenclature and care of rifle.

10 to 10:30 - Bayonet and physical training

10:30 to 11:30 - Organization and formation of platoon. Instructions in offensive combat of  
small units.

*Afternoon*

1:30 to 2:30 - Nomenclature and operation of Auto rifle (Chauchat)

2:30 too 3:30 - Construction of service hand grenade.

3:30 to 4:30 - Saluting and military courtesies.

Studies - Automatic rifle (Chau), Par. 82 to 101. Grenades, Par. 120 to 134.

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Nov 11 - Armistice signed. Ceased fire 11 a.m. Big doins here.

Nov 23 - Left Connerie. Train at 12.. Arrived 12:45 at B camp. Pitched pup tents, cleaned  
barracks.

Nov 25 - Moved into barracks.

Nov 28 - Thanksgiving (nix)

Dec 1, 1918 (to Cloverdale)

My dearest Glad,

Sunday afternoon and not much to do so will drop you a line or two. Still feeling fine and foxy and doing fine. Got a big long letter from Toolie the other day. He told me of his "lonesome trip" to C-ale. I guess he misses me some after all. He sure is a good kid alright.

We sure have been having some tough weather here the last week. Rainy and cold. Mud Oh Lord. It reminds me of the old school yard in the spring. Of course you can imagine how it is. But we won't be here always that's the pretty part of it. There are all sorts of rumors when we leave here but of course those reports cannot be relied on.

So school has started once more has it. I suppose you are glad of it. I imagine it is "rather hard" to loaf around Ha! Ha! But take it from me, I am going to loaf for 3 months after I get thru with army life. I am just going to stay around home and "pester" them to death. I sure will make "Pete" hustle worse than he ever did before. Got a letter from Paul Muelke (**Tangier friend**) the other day. He suggested a trip thru the west and I said OK. Spect I had better wait until I get my discharge before I start any trips. I have an idea that Shady and I will take charge of Toolie's Ford and if we do look out. ha!ha!

So Mr. Hendrix has gone to Ind'pl's has he. I hope everything goes OK with him. Ed Hassey (**Glad's cousin**) and I are separated now. I left him about a month ago. I never knew where he went to. There was a rumor that he went to Italy but I never found out for sure. That's one thing about Army life, you never know where you are going until you stops. Ed's bunch were messing with us when we were in southern France. Yep, Ed had lots to tell me. He and I got real confidential at times. Ed is a good Scout alright.

Well, Glad, I don't know when I will get home but I have good hopes that it won't be long until we will be sailing back across the "Briny Blue" and Lord that will be a happy trip for us lads. And as soon as I land in the old home town you want to start listening for a Ford coming up the big hill. For By Gosh, be it snowy, muddy or what not I won't be stoppped. Get that Ha!Ha! I won't make that too strong but you can imagine how soon I will appear upon the scene. I sure do get Homesick at times. But most of the time you are too busy to think even. Some of these days I will tell you all about it.

Well must close. Write as often as you can and I'll do the same.

Always your own Corp Reed Parent

Dec 15, 1918  
Camp D'Auvours, France

My Dearest Glad,

Just got thru reading your letter of 11/24 so will answer it now. Glad, I can't understand why you haven't received any more of my letters! I have written every week to you and if they don't reach you it isn't my fault. I am sorry that you are not hearing tho. No, I haven't hooked up with a "French Lady" yet. In fact they don't appeal to me in the least.

Glad, don't believe what you see in the papers about the 84th going to Germany or coming home or anything. In other words don't look for me until you see me comin'. So Mother hasn't rec'd my Xmas pkg slip eh. That beats h--- again.

Cold weather has started has it? We are having pretty warm weather here. The grass is still green and the sun is real warm today. Now listen here young lady, "Always do what your Mother says", seeski. When I was around I used to make you mind, and now that I'm away you mustn't be "foolish". Not foolish of course, but you know what I mean. So you are getting 'peeved" because I don't come home. ha!ha! Well Glad, I'll soon be through with this "job" and will be there in a few more months. Time is going rather fast and will soon pass.

Just got back from a little walk to a small town close by. Got a pretty good feed for 3f50 or about 70 cents.

Wish I knew when we start for the States. You are no more anxious for me to come home than I am to get there. No we never thought of a Thanksgiving dinner. We are not allowed to tell much now but there will be a time we can "unravel"

Glad, this sure is a messed up letter. But in it I mean to say that I am well and am very anxious to get back home and to you. Take good care of yourself and be careful with the "flu" proposition.

Don't get into too many fights with those other school "ma'ams" ha!ha!

Goodnight Glad, will write again soon.

Always your own Corp Reed Parent

*Dec 25 - Xmas Holiday, good grub today. Up last night on detail. Xmas presents (?)*

*Dec 26 - Box from Mother and Glad*

*Dec 31 - Detail all night*

Camp D'Auvuors  
12/31/1918 (to Putnamville)

My Dearest Glad,

I guess I had better take advantage of the time and write my last letter to you this year (?) Well, Glad, I rec'd the Xmas box the 27th and in fine shape too. And say but the candy was sure good. Mother and Lou Young (**Tangier neighbor**) went together in making her candy. Both boxes were fine but was rather inclined towards the "walnut fudge". It was great and I thank you very much for it. It lasted longest because I ate very sparingly of it. Of course I had to give a taste to some of my pals. They spoke complimentary too.

Well Glad, I have no news to give you. Only the bad weather continues. It rains every day so imagine the mud. We had quite a Xmas here in camp. The Y.M.C.A. gave us 1 can smoking tobacco, 1 pkg cigarettes and a bar of French chocolate. Then we were issued 3 pkg tobacco and two sticks lemon candy. Imagine the joy (?). It rained all day Xmas as usual. It sure didn't seem like Xmas to me for the grass is still green and only once or twice have we had mush-ice. I speck you have had real winter weather there by this time. You have quit driving by now, haven't you? Hope Estella and "Peg" (**Glad's older sister and husband**) are getting along fine. Toolie was telling me about a Mining Co. leasing the land around home. If I can beat my old job I sure won't to go back to the railroad. That is if I can get the "railroad" out of my "system". If I can arrange it I won't go away from home to work. Because when I get to that home again I sure won't get out of sight of it. This Army sure makes one appreciate a home. So any time you want to call me up you can feel sure that I'll be there to unhook the receiver. ha!ha! But no kidding, I've had my eyes opened since I landed this side of the "Briny Blue". There is sure one question that is strong in the boys mind over here and that is "When do we start home". But the Lord only knows when we leave here. Wish I could unravel it but of course I can't. There is talk of the soldiers having to help reconstruct. If that's the case, we'll be Old Men when we return. But they surely won't do such a thing as that. I sure will be glad to get back to God's country once more. France is alright for these Frenchmen but not for me. I would rather be back to where I can talk to someone without grunting and using the deaf and dumb code.

We signed pay roll to night so we have another pay day in sight. Then I expect to get a few souvenires to send or bring back. Everything here is sure out of sight.

I got a letter from Gilbert Sauers the other day. He and Verne are still together. I spose you heard of Earl Wakeland's death on the 9th of Nov. Just 2 days before the firing ceased. Sure too bad for the boy and a fine lad he was too.

I wonder what you are doing tonight. Remember three years ago. Great times we used to have, eh girl. Here's hoping for better times in the future.

Toolie has promised me the use of the Ford. Then look out old Ford! We sure will take in all the country. Spose Lena and Toolie have their usual "spats". They sure tickle me. Pete and Merle are separated forever I guess. Too bad ha!ha! They will quit that foolishness some of these days, when they get older and learn more. Lord, don't that sound old and wise. Fact of the matter is I'm about 10 years older. But I'm not so sure about this "wisdom stuff".

When I get home I figure on laying around for about 60 days and do nothing but eat and sleep and stay awful close to the old cook stove and help Mother. But that won't keep me from taking a little trip about twice a week, that is if the Ford don't fall to pieces or I run out of pennies.

Well, dear I have to get up rather early tomorrow and first call comes too quick anyhow so must close. Be careful about the Flu and take care of yourself and write when you can and I'll do the same. Good luck for all next year.

Always your own , a million -s, Corp Reed Parent

*Jan 1 1919 - Visit Le Mons, Not much there, cathedral very good.*

Camp D'Auvours  
1/10/1919 (to Putnamville)

My dearest "Glad",

If you will excuse pencil I will drop you a few lines. This leaves me OK and hope it reaches you the same. Doesn't that sound very conventional ha! Well, Glad everything here is the same old 5 and 6. Nothing new whatever. No chance whatever for coming home at all it seems and it sure gets on my nerves. But mustn't let a little thing ling like that worry a fellow tho. I wonder how everything is going back in God's country. Sure would like to be back there too. Up to now I have served more time overseas than in the States. It don't seem so long since we landed in Cherbourg. You will find that on the point in northern France. But it seemed like ages the two days and nights we were on the train bound for southern France. Well I have a world of stuff to tell when I return that I can't tell in a letter.

This mail question is sure getting serious. I haven't heard from you for ages. I sure run the mail orderly ragged for mail but to no effect. I haven't heard from anyone from your side of the pond. I wrote to Shady the other eve. Don't know whether it will do any good or not but I risked one letter his way anyhow. I never have heard from him since he left Shelby.

Whatever became of your cousin Ed Hassey? I left him down near Bordeaux, never knew what became of him. He and I chummed together quite a bit while we were there. Scott was transferred too. Have seen several of the old company that came back thru here.

Was over to LeMons on New Years day . Didn't see anything out of the ordinary tho. It all looks alike to me. I know some good old farm scenery that I would rather gaze upon. I am very much afraid you will have to teach me anew how to run a Ford. Think I have forgotten the manipulation of said machine. Remember the eve I took Merle to Cates then came over to S-wood and how late I arrived? Was just thinking of that tonight when I looked down and saw my muddy shoes. That sure was a dandy wasn't it. Toolie never knew of that until I was nearly ready to leave then we had quite a laugh over it. Some times we used to have, eh Girl? Greater times coming soon I hope when Toolie and I climb into the old Ford and scamper off down the road we traveled so many times ages ago. That will be a life then. When I don't have to worry about Revellie or Retreat of "Halt, who goes there?" or work like blazes to keep a clean gun and equipment and standing in line for chow. I think it will be soon when we start back across the pond. Whether I'm right or not here's hoping.

Well, Glad, this is a poor excuse for a letter. But after the censer raises probably I can do better. Here's hoping again.

Will write again soon. Take good care of yourself for I suspect you are having some bad weather there by this time. Goodnight dear, sweet dreams  
Always your own, Corp Reed Parent

*Jan 22 - Gen Pershing in camp. Hell has started  
Jan 23 - Going from bad to worse. Bad news for 84th (?)  
Jan 26 - First snow. Guard as per usual  
Jan 27 - Moved to Outpost Guard this a.m. Good place  
Jan 28 - Boy! a snap  
Jan 29 - Taken off Guard back to #23 then to #84. Cold as hell.  
Jan 30 - Signed pay roll. Fixed up barracks, Sgt McCracken and myself.  
Jan 31 - Men came in 6:30 p.m. casuls, 75 men (13 Le Mons cas. CO. Lieut Jett)  
Feb 1 - Snow today, heavy. Took mumps to hospatl. Took Sun rpt to Infor. Out to see Pug to nite.  
Feb 2 - OK so far. G. Hog day (?) Wonder how it works here, must watch. Cold as hell or colder. Another big trans up. Took laundry. Std at brks all day. Contemplated going out. notndn. Sun was out. Out to see Pug.*

Camp D'Auvours France  
2/2/19 (to Putnamville)

My dearest girl,

Sunday eve in France is sure not to my liking. But how is one to keep one's self. I sure would like to be in old Indiana tonight, and were I there in all probability I would not be at home

We have been having some real winter weather here lately. It has snowed three times the last week. The pines sure look fine with snow and frost all over their needles. About an inch is about as deep as the snow has gotten so far. But the Lord only knows how deep it is liable to get before it quits. It don't seem like it knows how to snow here in this God-forsaken country. At home when it starts to snow it goes about it in a business like way. But here it just goes the other way.

So "Pete" has great hopes in my getting home soon. Wish I could feel that way. Yes! I say! You and Pete are getting rather friendly. Look out for Merle. She is liable to run you ragged.- ha! Never mind, Girl, was foolin'. What did Toolie say about Shady when he would probably get home, where and how was he. Kindly remind the folks that they haven't written to me for over two months. Tell them that I never will write to them any more and probably that will scare them in sending me a line or two - ha! Got a fine letter from Uncle Perley (**Reed's uncle Perley Parent**) the other day. Wish you could have seen it. Talk about salve (?)!\* Well maybe he means well by it anyhow. Even at that I was glad to hear from them. Guess I'll go out there when I get home - if I ever do !\*?(-)

So you are staying in town now, eh? Hope you have a nice place, and lots of fun. No need to worry about the fun, you'll have that anyway ha!ha! Some day, Girl, I'll be home again and we'll romp over the old place once more and go to the Falls to have a fishing trip but hope we have more luck than we had the last time we were there, remember?

Say, take good care of the Ford and we'll run the wheels off that old bird in the summer of 1920. Well, must ring off. Good night dear.

Always, your Corp Reed Parent

Feb 3 - Fair today. Issue 16 kinds of candy, 2 pkg Durham, 1 candle. Fun with stove. ha! Letr to G. Letr to P.I. (Out on a limb and it broke)

Feb 4 - Must get rid of another stove, curses.

Feb 5 - Went to see Pug this eve.

Feb 6 - Card from Shady, he is at Le Mons. Thot he was across. Hell's fire Damn. Too many CC's

Feb 7 - (**few words here I can't read...**) Out to see Pug. Paid today

Feb 10 - Shipped boys away this a.m. Good bunch. Orders to return to Co.

Feb 12 - On detail this a.m. Moved back to co. Co in p.m. On guard at brig #2. Got one hell of a cold.

Feb 13 - Relieved at 4 p.m. grd.

Feb 14 - Missed revilee this a.m. Kitchen Horrors. Rain good. Vere Leveque this p.m. On for pass to forwarding camp to see Flick. Eggs for supper, Oh Lord.

Feb 15 - Police detail in a.m. Beat. Detail. Out to see Pug, met Capn there z.<<<. His orders \*!\*?X Came back, orders to leave in a.m. for St Malo on pass.

Feb 16 - Left about 8 a.m. for St Malo, a hell of a trip, got bad cold. Arrived 9 p.m. Tired as hell. ("Y" girls good chat)

Feb 17 - Slept all a.m. On beach p.m.

Feb 18 - In Hotel Curtisville, oh boy, no formations, sheets to sleep on. Great times. Sure will hate to go back to the camp. Just think, 7 long days of this. Big storm at sea. Picture taken, long walk this afternoon. Sure learn lots (?)

St Malo  
2/18/19 (to Putnamville)

My dearest Glad,

Gladys, I haven't heard from you for over a month now and am getting very anxious to hear from you. So please write to your old "pal" once more anyhow.

I am at St. Malo now, on the coast between Brest and Cherbourg, here on a seven day leave. It sure is a great place and am enjoying life in the fullest. We are staying in hotels and having loads to eat and good sleeps. You see, we get seven days leave every four months and I have been over here nearly six. Long time, too. It sure will be hard to go back to the company again. It is now after six p.m. and we have been gone ever since nine a.m. This port is something else. 35,000 people and a great resort so you can see what we ran into. Almost five more days here. It sure is a grand place here for the boys but there is too much to see in the required time that it keeps you moving.

Rec'd a card from Flayde the other day. I had thought all the time that he got to go home with his division but find that he is stationed about 20 kilos from where my Co. is. So when I go back to camp I am going to have to go see the boy.

Well, Glad, I hope you are well and everything is going nicely. But for the love of Mike write to me once in a while or I will think that you have kicked me out, and then poor me. Is your father still at Indpl's or has he returnned to the farm? I sure would like to be there too, my girl. I'll have lots to tell you about my trip "abroad" (?)

I guess we are stuck over here for quite a spell. But I'll be home some time maybe, if I don't die of old age, ha!ha! No, we will be home in a few more months and then Oh Lord we sure will step some. That is if you are willing (?) ha!ha!

Well Glad, will close this note now but will write again in a few days. So good bye till then. Write me at my old ad. at camp, that is: Co :G" 1st Pu Rgt A.P.O 762 A.E.F

.Always your own Corp Reed Parent

*Feb 19 - Took trip to St Dinard on motor boat. Picturesque trip to cliff of images. Tired, oh hell. Warner stayed at hotel. Everhart and Durfee regular dam fools.*

*Feb 20 - Went to St Michel, sure a grand place, founded 807 a.d. A big solid rock. Political and religious stronghold. Louis XI organized order of Michel here. Museum great with its collections and wax figures. Dungeons sure were some tough looking place. Went to "Y" show tonight. 37th Div put on a show, a good one, especially the lady impersonaters. Could say lots - no room. Getting down low in franks, times getting closer when we leave.*

*Feb 21 - Rained today. Got up late, went to wyE (?) Mailed lett'r to G. and some views. Good dance there, read and loafed. Eberhart making an ass of himself. Stayed at hotel and wrote home. Radimaker and I went out to the hermit priest at Rotherneuf, oh la la, a sweet ma ma. Went thru the priest's house with 2 mme. Oui. At cafe for supper. Lots of fun with the girls, we must go back tomorro nuit. (20 from Rady)*

*Feb 22 - 2 7 from Warner. Picture taken again, Last one no good. Eberhart is an ass right, a regular country ignatz. Won't go out with the hard mouthed fool this p.m. Radi and I have an appointment this eve. Gosh, must go back to Co too dam soon. Rady, Stick and I went to the country to cafe. Late getting home.*

*Feb 23 - Got up rather late. Went down to "Y". Thru old St Malo on docks. Big English boat put out to sea. Home-sick -oh hell. Wish I had been on her. Back to "Y" in p.m. Good show. Sent post cards to Glad and Mother. Wish to hell I was home God-for -dam. 80.00 from Eberhart. Re'c't. Went out to Rotherneuf to night. The lady with the lost lover (?) No Marguerite (?) Got home 1 a.m. Eberhart and Durfee out all night.*

*Feb 24 - Our day to go home, curses. Got up at 9 a.m. Went to town in a.m. Durfee and I after pictures, no get. Start to train. Eberhart's girl called me MP. Left St Malo at 5:30. One hell of a hard ride.*

*Feb 25 - Arrived Champagne about 5:30 a.m. Rain. Signed pay roll. Got beaucoup mail, one from Shady, Glad and Perley. Camp as hard as hell. Detail out at tent camp. Bath tonight. Hell, this feed is awful after what we had last week. "V.W." same dam food.*

*Feb 26 - Rainy. On detail with engs digging ditch. Grub rotten. Things in a hell of a shape. No chance of getting better.*

*Feb 27 - No detail today. Go on guard tonight. Squads each this a.m. Doolie cut hair. Por beau franks. Hope we get paid soon, if we don't am in a hell of a fix - finish this finish that - out on guard. Drew coke pile, nice fire. Saw funny sight this eve. Guard trick 4 hours here. Beaucoup couchette temerro. Had hell of a dream last night, dreamed of home (?) Hell with the cook.*

*Feb 28 - Off guard at 8 a.m., rest of day mine! Mills got his furlough, glad he gets to go home, he sure earned it. Hope he has a good time. Wrote to Shady. Went to frog show. Lonesome without old Mills. 20 from Knoll, 5 to Rady. "Rady" a beaucoup comrad.*

*Will try to go see Shady Sunday, if can get a pass. Took clothes to laundry, had to hurry to miss the colonel. Beaucoup kat muir at laundry. A real for sure spring day*

*Mar 1 - No drill today. Got new coat. Gun inspection OK. Put.in for a pass to see Shady.*

*Went to frog show then to "Y". K.C.gave us pipe, cigarettes too. Rainy. Lay around barracks all day. Curses, on guard tomorrow, it sure beats hell. Signed pay book tonight. Beats the devil. I can't see Shady when he is so close. Must write home soon. Haven't heard since Dec. Hell for awful. Give anything if I was at home.*

3/2/19 (to Putnamville)

Dearest Glad,

Will now write the promised letter I said would write soon. So here goes. Got your letter the other day, had given up all hopes of ever hearing from you again. So your daddy has bought the farm. Now I suppose you won't come back to the old hometown. I didn't think he ever would break away from the mill. Seemed as tho the "fascination" got into his "system". Hope everything goes OK. The flu is still taking its course yet, is it?

I can't see for the life of me why you think I am coming home so soon. The "Lord" knows. I sure would like to be there but up to yet I see no chance. Probably things will turn out for the better some of these days.

Had intended to go see Shady today but am on duty this eve, guard, so my request for a pass was turned down. Beats the devil I can't see him as close as he is. But that is Army life, tho. Had a chat with Scott the other eve. He is still in this camp. I sent you some views and cards from St. Malo. Don't know whether you will ever get them or not. But had the "fun" of starting them. This is not much of a letter but may be it will serve the purpose. Have lots of fun. Maybe I'll get home sometime, Good bye. Lots of Love,

Always your Cpl. Reed Parent

*Mar 2 - Nothing to do all morn. Talk. Peirson and I on walk. Rainy. Go on guard at 3:10*

*Post No. 11 Relief. Rainy as the devil. A cat scared hell out of me. Salterman gave me a good lunch at 12 p.m. Wrote to Glad and home. The love letters of a rookie to his girl. Laughed like hell at the two mme. across the road, oh-la! la!*

*Mar 3 - Relieved of guard at 3:10. Guard same old thing, fooled a guy out of his bed. Out to bathe tonight. Vance raised hell because I wasn't present at formation, turned me in, don't know what will come of it. Got pictures today, weren't worth a dam. Was put on athletics today, basketball. Lots of good times if I make good Sgt Rautson, Cpl Snyder, Pvt Pearson and myself - a fine bunch of boys. Nothing else out of the ordinary. Mills having one hell of a time I hope. Six months ago today we set sail from New York for England on ESS Ajax. Taps blowing, Aurevoir.*

*Mar 4 - Revelie before first call this a.m., ain't that hell itself? Sure beats hell. "There's a great day coming". Detail this a.m. Found dead porcupine. Shoveled sand out R.R cut. Went out for basketball this p.m. That gets me off detail for a while. Don't know whether I'll make good or not. Went to frog show this p.m. with Rady. White boy beat hell out of dam coon. To wyE show by troopers, a dam good one especialle the Mme. Ruled jazz stuff good. A fine long letter from Mother dear. Thot I took Schuim(?) 2 candles, 2 bags bull. Hope we get paid soon. It's hell for awful. Must get pass soon. Bet Mills is raising hell-?-*

*Mar 5 - On police detail this a.m. Charge of detail to police wye. Get paid today. 185.50. Paid Warner 20, Knoll 20. Must go on guard tonight, curses. Wrote to G, R.E and folks. Letter from Shady. On guard No 8 and relief. Rained oh hell tonight.*

*Mar 6 - Off guard 4 p.m. Took bath. Guard same as usual. A new form for equipment display. It sure beats the devil. Made another try at a pass to see Shady. Guess we are stuck here for good. Haven't the heart to send GD a "bild" two queer the chair. Not heavy any more. (I really don't understand his...)*

*Mar 7 - Out on a hell of a detail this a.m. Cleaned out ditch, it sure was hell. Got out of it this p.m., went out to basketball. Had an awful scrimmage. Hot and tired, took a good shower, felt pretty good. Fraid will get stiff. Rady and I for a walk. Splt [?] 2 Mme. Rady banked. Took one hell of a trip cross country. well paid. An awful time coming home. Oohh muir. Deep thots of my little girl at home, but alas she is out with some other guy and don't give a dam for me anymore. Hell, I miss my old bunkee Cpl Mills. Hope he is having a time of his life, beaucoup zzzz and all.*

3/8/19 (to Putnamville)

Dear Gladys,

Same old story, no news only that it hasn't rained very much today. That is quite an item in this part of the contry. Got a big long letter from Mother the other day. Sure got lots of news. So old "Dude" Hodson has entered upon that troubleous water they call matrimony. Poor foolish boy. Thot he was wiser than that ha! ha!. Well, he got a very fine girl alright. I see where Henley, Renick, Isaacs and J F Swaim are home, curses. They were lucky enough to stay in God's country. Guess we're here for four (4) years more or less. Quite a bit less I hope. Wouldn't take a million dollars (?) for the experience I have had over here but wouldn't give a dime to make the trip again. "Patriotic" eh? Well, them's my sentiments.

Went out and played a game of basketball the other day and as a result I am hobbling around worse than a rheumatic. Never again. Spose you are seeing lots of athletics this year. Wish to "Hades" I was back there. If wishing had done any good I'd have been there long ago. The A.E.F. will have lots to tell when they return. Haven't seen Flayde yet. I never can get away. It sure beats "Hades".

As per usual I am on Guard again. Got so now don't care whether it's day or night, it's the same to me.

Never hear from Toolie any more. Guess he has jumped into the Wabash some night when he was at S-wood. Very likely, don't you think? So you got to be an expert with a machine, have you? Don't think I could even push a bicycle any more.

Well, guess had better cut this mustard and hit the feathers for about forty winks.

Goodnight, will write again soon. As ever, your Pal, Cpl Reed Parent

*Mar 8 - Missed revillie this a.m. No calling. Strange. On Police detail. Got laundry. Went on guard this eve, Cpl 2nd relief. Dam, have almost forgot how to do it. Wrote to G. Old Gurney (Reed's cousin, Gurney Parent) is back from B. H. 52, looking good. Cold and rainy as hell. Tonight wrote to Ruby E. (Reed's cousin, Ruby Ephlin, Stella Mendenhall Ephlin's Daughter)*

*Mar 9 - Not much today. Rady and I may go out tonight. Can't tell, rather rainy at present. This guard is sure hell for tough. Guess we will never get away. Rady and I went out*

*to the country. (?) Non*

- Mar 10 - On coal detail this a.m. Not much work. Shot crap. won. Came to barracks, lost what I had won. Report this p.m., no work. Came back to barracks. Joe Dailey and I went to "Y". Missed retreat, got called. Rady and I to Leveque. Beaucoup coffee. Good time Rady a Scout.*
- Mar 11 - Boy, had to go some to get into Revellie. Came back, slept until 8:00 missed breakfast. On Police detail as usual. Went on guard No 2, first relief. Watchman at hospital. Beaucoup nurses, real American girls. Good chat with "Y" lady. God, believe have lost my nerve (?) Back to barracks. On again at 4 a.m. Lost 15.00 at Klondyke. Aurevoir*
- Mar 12 - Off guard at 8 a.m. Slept much of day. Got new trousers from Rady. Took bath tonight Beat it, Rady and I to Leveque, good time. Beaucoup ooffs. Bum truck both ways. Got in late. Got good trip planned for tomorrow. Hold 20.00 francs trust for Rady Beaucoup comrade. Issued service stripe today. Must bloom out soon. ha! ha!*
- Mar 13 - On detail today at Sub Depot H 14. Unload provisions. Made 2 cans jam, 2 cans chicken soup. On same detail this p.m. Beat it to the athletic school. Good stunts. Rained as usual. Slept most of eve. Tres bon news, "maif" leave [?] soon. God, won't I be glad. I'll allow about 2/3 sick. Put in for pass to see Shady, got it pretty well framed up. Hear we have field inspection Sun. (?) also 1 hour drill every eve. (?) Reread all my letters again, some consolation in it. Suppose old Reg has started by this time. Hope he has had a fine time.*
- Mar 14 - In charge of qtrs. Got pass, went to see Shady. My God glad to see him. Same old Shady. Stayed all day, had beaucoup chat. Told me lots of news. Got home awful late.*
- Mar 15 - Latrine-guard today but didn't do anything. Took laundry. As usual no mail. Pug, Rady and I to movie. Pas bon. Got to work all day tomorrow. Wrote G. and sent picture.*
- Mar 16 - Six months ago today we landed at Avonmouth, England. Got up late today, had rifle inspection, on detail this p.m. Called off. Went to change this p.m. Aimed to go see Shady today - God damit. Beaucoup danci at charge. Saw G's double. The fast four from the gay city.*
- Mar 17 - On police detail this a.m., guard tonight - prisoner chaser. No mail. Gave Mills 30 f. to hold for me.*
- Mar 18 - Chasing prisoners, not a bad job but hate to stand over them with a loaded gun. Off guard at 4 p.m. Come back to Co, drilled 40 min close order. This p.m. Rady and I to a little town east. Funny news about Rady HIRIT. (?) Wouldn't that kill you. Bunkie not 50-50. Hell again tomorrow.*
- Mar 19 - Charge of quarters, lazy man's job. Got in game and lost (?) same as usual. 30 f from Reg. Same thing, no mail today, oh hell. Me and Paks is finis. Same thing - rain. Noah never saw so much water. Hell of a long time until pay day. Took laundry. Mail question is hell, it makes me wonder quite a bit. Vance sure raised hell with Pierson this a.m. at revelie, twas funny.*
- Mar 20 - On police detail, got thru early. Letr from G, tres bon, some lady. On guard tonight, Cpl 2nd relief. Main guard. Hard boiled o.r. everything OK. wrote G.*

Camp D'Auvours  
Mar 20, 1919 (to Putnamville)

My Dearest "Glad",

Got a big long letter from you today. The first I had gotten from you since about Feb 8th or 9th. Seemed like six years to me. Began to think I was entirely forgotten. I can't see for the life of me why you didn't get my change of address sooner. Something crooked somewhere. I am still at the same camp about 10 kilos east of LeMons. Am doing guard duty and when we are not doing that we are training. Picks and shovels to work. Get me! You can guess at part of that. Even tho I can't say it in so many words

So you were looking for me any day, were you. Well I wish to Christ I were there. But that is neither here or there on the subject. But at that we may get away from here sooner than we expect. Small chance of that, I fear. Yes, I have seen a few sights, not many tho. Was over at St Malo, but I told you about that, sent you quite a few post cards and views. Did you ever get them? Going again the next chance I get. Lord, it takes "beaucoup" francs. But its worth while at that, tho. I told you about seeing Shady, didn't I? Yep, school will soon be out. So you are figuring on going to the Big Berg are you. Well, you guessed right when you said that I had had enough of that place. Shady and I have both decided to hit the R.R. again, but not what we had before. No telling what I'll do tho (?)

Say, you sure got my goat when you told me about "Peg" and Hester. That sure beats "hades". Strange things will happen. Seems as tho all the young men in that part of the country have lost their "pates".

As per usual on guard again and rainy. I'll bet 13 cents Noah never saw this much water in his life. Not boasting, either.

Yes, Scott is in this camp yet, he is in the M.P. But keep that to yourself. Because most people don't think very highly of the Military Police.

Now that I have posted my relief I will try and finish my letter. Well, dear, Pv. Reg. merely stands for Provisional Regiment and the A.E.C. is American Embarkation Centre, "compre"? As far as the division is concerned there is none. I hope you are right in what you said about my coming home, and you were right again when you said this was no paradise. So you are looking forward to a few "sprees" eh! Well, I'm on, believe muh. Do you spouse I have a poor memory? Well, there's where you are fooled. Get me Glad. So you had my "home coming" all planned, did you? I'm sorry I disappointed you but twas no fault of mine. Well, dear, guess I had better ring off and give you a rest ha! ha! I'll get home just as soon as they will possibly let me loose. And I'll sure come down for a week's rest and we sure will romp over those hills and enjoy life in general. Goodnight, dear. Lots of love,

Your Corp Reed Parent

*Mar 21 - All OK today. Rain, Off guard. in Guard Co. Rid of Vance. Glory, letr from G, photo. Oh God, beats hell I have to stay over here. Went out tonight. Rady and I saw Sgt Root out of town. Met Stick and Thomas >>> Beaucoup parley, lunch. tres bon.*

*Mar 22 - Placed in guard Co. 110, still in #23 bar. Report a detail this a.m., report guard detail this p.m. 20 from Knoll. Went out tonight, Joe, Stick and self. Boo some time. Letr from Peg, that bird married - whew!*

*Mar 23 - Got up late. Stood insp. Got pass, went up to see Shady. Read beaucoup letrs from home. 20 from Warner.*

*Mar 24 - On police detail today. On guard. Cpl outpost #1 cootie plant. Tres bon, ah we beaucoup couchettes. Wrote G. 23 years old today, I feel 50. This life sure is hell.*

*Mar 25 - Done nothing all day. Stood guard mount. Showed new cpl. Lots of boys are leaving tomorrow for states. Sure making me blue as the very hell. Get our shots tomorrow. I guess will sure be glad when I see the Statue of Liberty. Signed cards to go home - Owen, Vaughn, Wells Ward, Kyrie Rautson.*

*Mar 26 - CQ today. Got a shot for typhoid. No good for hell, arm sore as the very goddam. Done bunk fatigue most of the day. Look for mail, no compre. Rain as per usual.*

*Mar 27 - 2 letrs from G, One from Toolie. So tres bon. Having a hell of a time at home! Slept all day. Put in one hell of a night.*

*Mar 28 - On police detail this a.m. Didn't do anything. Cleaned up for guard tonight, 1st relief main guard. Wrote to G and home.*

*Mar 29 - Nothing unusual on guard today. Hell has sure broke loose. Some non-coms were issued pistols, favorites, I guess. Jackobson was made sgt. Sure beats hell. Boy, this is sure some chicken shit company. Took bath today.*

*Mar 30 - Not much doing today. Weekly inspection. Rady, Reg and I on long walk in country 60 miles from nowhere, 20 from Knool [?] Big snow this a.m.*

*Mar 31 - In charge of "Y" detail. Not much work but hell of a lot of trouble with men. Thomas and I went for a walk. Same old supper. Letter from G, sure a good one. A tres bon mme, believe muh! Christ I want to be home. Hope I get there tuit de suite.*

*Apr 1 - April Fool's Day, Boo. Nothing doing all day. Done lots of bunk fatigue. Thomas and I on spree, oh la la.*

*Apr 2 - On guard. Cpl sick, had to sub for him being next on list. Read good book "Gleam of Dawn". Cpl 1st relief, reg guard. Same as ever. Not much doing. Cpl Litrell, Bell, Snitger. Haven't heard from Shady for some spell. I wonder where he is. Must go see him soon.*

*Apr 3 - Police detail. charge. Took men to get trees for front yard. Arrange decoration of front of billet. "Y" tent burned at noon, funny, closed and guarded. Slept this p.m. Got new straw for bed. Barracks 28 -29 burned about 8:30 p.m. Beaucoup excitement, had to evacuate. Ha! 23 OK*

*Apr 4 - On police detail this a.m., not this eve. Cpl Smith, Bug Salterman left for home. Fine day, spring fever is hell. Reg and I moved downstairs. Cpl Smith also.*

*Apr 5 - Fine day. Took romp over country. Wrote G. Nothing out of the ordinary, went to see Diemer.*

Camp D'Auvours  
4/6/19

My dearest "Glad",

Sunday eve again and in the same old camp. But something unusual has happened, we have had a week of fine weather. Real spring weather, and as a result I am as lazy as an old dog. Wonder what kind of weather you are having over there in God's Country? Flowers are blooming here and it reminds me of home so much I can hardly live. Outside of that everything is the same old 5 & 6. Oh yes, had a little fire the other day, or night rather. Had to evacuate our barracks, didn't get us tho. Got kinder tardy with my letters, haven't I. Didn't write all last week, about the first week I have missed. Haven't been to see Shady for a couple of weeks. I rather looked for him over here but guess he is too busy to run around.

Well, guess school is out by this time isn't it. I expect that rest is sure welcome after such a winter, isn't it. Lord, won't I be glad when I get there. For I'm telling you that this Homesick Blues is sure fierce. I never was so homesick in all my born days but Lord it don't do any good to get that way.

So "Judge" (**George, Glad's brother**)s having quite a tantrum, is he? I would like to see the kid all bloomed out like that. Bet I would chase him into the woods ha! ha! Well I know just how the lad feels, was a kid myself one day. Would sure like to see those boys alright.

Bet "Leny" and Toolie" are having a bad time of it now. He will be too far away to make his 3 trips per week. They sure don't know what it is to be separated, do they? Here I am about 4500 miles away and he is only 60 miles from his lady and still he growls at being far away. Could you imagine. That boy don't know what a hard time is. I sure will lecture him when I get there. Does Helen (**Glad's sister**) ever hear from Mike? Is he still over here and when will he get home.

Say, when did I become "Mr. Parent". Look-a-here, you know better than that. So forget that "Mr." stuff or we'll have a real old "quarrel" some of these days. That is, when I get there. About 3 mos I think we will start getting ready to recross the Briny Blue. I believe I can enjoy my return trip much more than I did coming over (?) Say old P.K. pulled off some stunt, didn't he. The D dirty pup.

Had a nice trip in the country today. Had the spring fever, too. Couldn't hardly get along, either, these nice days are sure fine for the morale. But that isn't saying much at that.

So you think I couldn't get "rid" of you eh? Well, listen here young lady, I ain't going to try that one bit and you believe I'm telling the truth too. And if you think the same thing believe me we can get along real well. What about it? Did you get the letter I wrote the 24 of March? Just curiosity.

Well Glad it's getting rather late so will ring off and hit the "feathers" for about "40 winks". Hope to get home soon and I can talk a whole lot better than I can write. Will write again soon. Goodnight Always your own

Corp Reed S Parent  
Guard Co #110 A.S.C. A. E. C.  
Belgian Camp South France  
A.E.F.

*Apr 6 - Started drill schedule today, 3 inspections. Missed revllie this a.m., sure got hell for it.*

*Letter from John Tomlinson. Out to 84 meeting tonight, saw good movie. On for night orderlie tomorrow night.*

*Apr 8 - Not much doin. Fixing up barracks for prize contest, 1 bbl beer and a flag. On night orderlie, not much to do.*

*Apr 9 - Barracks 23 took prize this a.m. and we were all out to look at it. Sleepy, oh hell. Slept this p.m. Boys didn't wake me for retreat, spect I'll hear of it soon. Reg got called by Cpl at "Y". Stole horseshoes. Black Jack, won 3 f. tres bon, oui la la.*

*Apr 10 - Thomas and I went for a walk. Have had some real nice days lately. 23 is still in the ring for prize.*

*Apr 11 - CQ today. Nothing out of the ordinary today.*

*Apr 12 - The whole bunch of officers went thru 23 to take a squint. Got a letter from a Girl back home. Got hell of news from home. Was over to see Shady.*

Apr 13 - Rainy today. No inspect of rifles. Joe Daily took trip, had lots of fun. Run into Vaughn and Thomas, beaucoup le fun. Inspected the town. 2 from Vaughn, 10 from Mills. Thomas acted regular dam fool.

Apr 14 - On guard as per usual. E.. Cpl 2nd in command of sq le gard. Got paid up, 196.50 f, have not time to spend it. Got picture taken of barracks. Letr from B, one from P. I.. Wrote G. Wish to hell I was at home. Am so dam lonesome I can't see. Want to be with my little lady on the P.....farm. Full moon tonight makes it worse.

Apr 15 - Same old 5 & six, nothing out of the ordinary. Gen. was thru our prize barracks this eve. Rained all day and most of last night. It sure beats hell.

Apr 16 - Noth'n doin this a.m. Detail this p.m. with bunch of urinals. Beautifying nurses' quarters. Beaucoup American girls. Rady, Reg and I to vere Leveque. Eggs and spuds. M.P. 6. Close up old comrad in a.m. Wrote home and P.I.

Apr 17 - Noth'n doin this a.m. Am on same detail as yesterday, sure is hell. No mail today. Drill this eve, rotten as hell. Beaucoup balling out. Rady, Reg and I to Le Mans this eve. Good supper at Red Cross. Saw Gwenup and Crance Reg gave me his photo.

Apr 18 - On non com detail this a.m. Put fence across road at Frog Hars. Was given 25 men, 2 cpls to police barracks. Didn't feel like work, neither did men. Therefore got called. Drilled this p.m. Tres petit. Went to bed early. No mail.

Apr 19 - Started off bad today, nobody up for revlie. Capt gave us all a calling. On honor guard at funeral of boys that got killed on train. Pretty dam bad for those boys. Got back about 1:30 p.m. We got prize for best barracks. Prize: a flag, 1 bbl of beer and passes. Rady, Reg and I to town. Got home too late for beer. Oh Lord but Mme at town today -scared- Rady and I over to frog saloon. No mail, sure beats hell I don't get any. No compre. Get our pictures taken tomorrow. 20 franks to Reginald. Got one hell of a cold.

Apr 20 - Easter Sunday, in France, oh hell. Was in charge of annex #24. a nice day. Co pictures taken. Got a letter from G, wrote G. Christ but am lonesome for my old pal. Co on guard today. Out for a stroll this eve. Out to see Diemer. Think he will get along OK A raving letr from G. ? ? ! Good old Glad. When we meet oui la! la! A different one from the last one I got.

Camp D'auvours (to Cloverdale)  
4/20/19

My dearest "Glad",

Easter Sunday and away from home. Can you imagine it? Been trying to think all day where I was a year ago today, and for the life of me I can't. Seems as tho have been here ten long years. When I get my discharge you don't see me doing any traveling abroad. Oh, I may go to Africa or South America, but never to this part of the world. ha! ha! By gosh if I ever get out of it this time you can bet I'll never come back. The climate don't agree with me or else I don't agree with it.

Well, Glad, we had the prize barracks of the camp. You know I told you of it in my last letter. Had the Co's picture taken too. Was in town yesterday so got back too late for the fun. Saw Big Scott, told me he starts for home sometime this week. Joins an outfit at port. Can you imagine it, say it was a regular joy-killer for me. No kidding. Told him to tell you all about me

over here. Knew he would do it anyhow. So wanted him to expostulate with a clear conscience. Get me? ha! ha!

So you got that picture (?) eh? So you aren't going to use it to scare the mice away? Well I missed my expectation. Yes I started getting "fleshy" after I had a touch of the flu down in southern France. Feeling fine but for a fierce cold.

As far as letters are concerned this is the first I've had since I got your picture some weeks ago. I have been to see Shady quite a few times. He is in a Casual Co. now, don't know what that will lead to. Good, I hope. Toolie's stunt gave him the blues.

Our Co. was called into Le Mans yesterday morning to a funeral of 14 soldiers that were killed in a train wreck while on their way to the coast. Sure was tough luck for the boys.

That ring you saw in the picture is a souvenir de St. Malo. Or to be more exact, Mont St. Michel. Say, would you please jar up the folks a bit and have them write to me. I never hear from them any more. Something funny about it.

Well, dear, I sure do want to get home awful bad. I can hear it calling but too far away to answer. That's all I think and dream of any more. Sure gets my goat, too. But just wait until that lucky day comes around. Bet I make somebody sit up and take notice. Say, spose you can get me a job around there on a farm, ha! ha! Guess I'll go back to the railroad, Shady and I. "Old Man" Markley said to come back there so guess I am OK. Well, guess I had better ring off, am entertaining a bunch of boys so can't do much good at writing (?)

Good night and Good luck

As always your own Cpl Reed Parent

*Apr 21 - In charge of quarters again today. Went to (**Change?**) to dance. No compre*

*Apr 22 - Notn doin this a.m. On detail this p.m. Out with police sgt. M.P's got funny with boys  
of detail. Drill this eve. No mail.*

*Apr 23 - No mail again today, curses. Sure beats hell, on detail all day. But beat it to ball game.  
Orderly told me of pass to front. Got ready, went to Le Mons this eve. Wrote G from  
there. Hope to have beaucoup time there. Pug is sore, can't go along. sorry. Joe Daley,  
Sgt Joe Kenon and I. Mahoney goes nearly the same.*

*Apr 24 - Arrived Paris about 6:30 a.m. We started off fine, couldn't get away from the station.  
Went down to the subway, hit it blind. Grabbed the first one that came by, hit it lucky.  
got a room at the Red Cross. Washed, shaved, shoes shined and started. Got a guide  
and allez. Sure saw a hell of a lot. Got enough cards to bridge the Atlantic. Big time in  
Louvre, Arc d'Triomphe, Pantheon of War. Tired as very devil, went to room, rested.  
Started out after dark. Saw bright lights of Paree. Joe nearly got run over. ha! ha!  
Leave in a.m. for Reims. Beaucoup fun, couchette nuit.*

*Apr 25 - Left Red Cross about 6 a.m. started for subway, caught taxi, went to Gare d'est. Had a  
devil of a time finding breakfast. Were thrown upon ourselves to get around. Found it at  
a Red Cross. Went back to station, got on train and started. Went thru Chateau Thierry,  
Yanks sure raised hell there. Arrived at Reims about 11:30. Got our dinner (7 f 50 c)  
then started out in town. Never believed in so much ruins in all my life. Not a house in  
town untouched, town of 110,000 inh. Trenches right thru town, was out in trenches.  
Beaucoup duds and grenades. City of Bethany nothing but dust. Was in lots of dugouts.  
Come back to town dogtired. Marin Padre and nurse killed by dud. Had fine room,  
5.00. More post cards. Francs going fast, must watch or will run out. Brrrr, then hell*

would be to pay. Couchetts Dix Uhr. Has a hell of a time at cafe at supper. They all set up and took notice.

Apr 26 - Got up about 10:00 a.m., washed, got dinner. (7f 20) very good. Walked about a bit, went to station, got our tickets. Had a spat with a frog but beat him out of it. Rainy day, on train ready to leave for Shallons. If I haven't any mail when I get to camp someone will sure get murdered. But nevertheless altho but.... (?) .Arrived Shallons 6 p.m., got supper at "Y".. Went to "Y" for bed Big dance, town full of French soldiers. Came back, found guy in my bed. Had to run him out, easy. Nearly froze to death.

Apr 27 - Left Shalons 6:45 for Verdun. A very tiresome ride in 3rd class. Beaucoup P.S's. Went thru Argon region on train, beaucoup tore up. Arrived Verdun about 12 , sailed out. Joe and Mahoney had a quick call of nature, nearly run my legs off trying to keep up. Reg. at "Y" for beds. Went out to fort. Talk about shell holes, one covered another. Shell blew up (Pet...'s ?) grave, found his bones. Beaucoup graves. Went thru an underground fort. Frogs are wise people after all. Bought a small shell vase. Tired, o Lord. Had service at "Y", refreshments afterwards. Went to barracks, another guy in my bed, beats hell for sure. Had to chase him out. Very good sleep tonight.

Apr 28 - Got up late. Went over town in some dugouts. Beaucoup tore up. Came back. 33 leaving Luxembourg for home, curses. Maybe will get to go home myself. Hope so. Came back to "Y", very good dinner for 18.50. Mahoney yelled for frog capt. that for him.(?) Bought souvenirs. Leave here about 3:30 for St Michel. Jack very anxious to get back, No hurry myself. Arrived St Michel about 6:00 p.m. Town very much shot up by Americans and Dutch. Got our room and went for supper. Then over town. Town pro-German. Bought post cards, swiped a whole lot of junk.. Sure a hell of a place, I'm ready to leave right now. But can't get away, curses. Got 8 blankets on bed, want more. Lots of big snow yesterday, big as hand, almost. Strange for this time of year. Joe come covered with snow, afraid to go out. Girls here afraid of Americans, they all run. Beaucoup couchette, Bon nuit.

Apr. 29 - Left this a.m. at 8:00. Ground covered with snow. Oh hell, this country is fierce, sure want to get out of it. St Michel to Verdun sure a slow train thru ark.(?) 8 mi per hour is limit, nearly froze. Got Verdun about 11:00, no snow there. Had big dinner to make up for no breakfast. Jack on warpath again, sure is worrisome. Had nice time in wyE Went down to train, left there about 4 p.m.in good coach. Joe and Mahoney had no tickets ha! ha! Thot they could get by, nothing doing. Arrived Chalons about 8:30 p.m.. Got some grub at Franco-American Red Cross, started to "Y" to get a bed. Run into a frogthat could parley anglaise. Mahoney gave Joe's cigarettes to him then laughed at Joe for it. Got very good place to sleep, stole 8 blankets and mattress, slept warm anyhow by gosh. Jack still on high hoss, oui buell muir Joe and Mahoney crazy as ever, worry Jack to death.

Aug 30 - Got up early as the very devil to get 5:45 a.m. Chalons to Paris. Rainy. Got light breakfast. Caught express west, no room, had to stand up. A high nosed frog chased us out of first class coach. Felt like knocking him for a row of toilets a mile long. Had I been a civilian I would have chastised him. Had a squabble over tickets, cost us 4f50, had to pay 1f20 more, damn these frogs. Tried to read a wyE book, too dam mad. Oh well, God pity these poor fool frogs. Arrived Paris 9:30 a.m. Took stub to etat station. Jack mad at all of us, Oh Lord. Went to "Y", got rooms. Washed, shaved, then started

*overtown. Jack got disgusted and came back to "Y". Joe Mahoney and myself kept going, saw most (?) of town. Got back in time for supper. Jack leaves tonight for camp. Wish he hadn't got scared and left. Went to Champs Elysees theatre with Manoney and his two friends from home. Good show. Beaucoup mme's on streets. No good for me, my mme is across the wide ocean. Have neglected writing to her, must do it soon. A dance downstairs maybe I will have to attend. Well guess I must have to go back to drudgery of camp tomorrow, horrors. Dear old G, wish I could be with her tonight, could live over old times. Cold, rainy today. Room 29 a bed at Red Cross #11.*

*May 1 - A big day for the French socialists. Everything on a standstill. No bus or sub., every thing still. Seems funny to hear no noise. Got up about 6 a.m. Breakfast and walked to Dep Montparnasse. Everything going fine. Caught 8:30 a.m. to Champagne. Sure a slow train. A clever little French girl, well edu., good talker, had nice entertain. but she got away too soon. Arrived Champagne about 8:30 p.m., Seven long hours of travel. Camp same as we left. Pug, Rady on pass, left this a.m. Drilled this eve with the boys. Good to be back among the boys. Got a fine long letter from Glad. Good God, want to get there awful bad. Good muir traveling around. Hopes. Good bath. Found some equipment gone, raised cain (?). Found them. Go on guard tomorrow, (private). God dammit, sure beats hell. Some day I'll be a civilian, by the eternal gods.*

*May 2 - On detail today. We didn't do much. On guard tonight. Got supplies at cootie plant. Big feed. On 2nd relief pvt.*

*May 3 - Off at 8 a.m. Monkeyed around all day. Letr from G. Fine one. I wrote her.*

Camp D'Auvours

5/3/19 (to Cloverdale, forwarded to Terre Haute)

My Dearest Glad,

Got a fine long letter from you a few days ago. I sure was glad to hear from you., too. Your letters are getting here very good now. I hear from you about every 3 weeks. Haven't heard from home in ages. This mail system is sure punk.

Just got back from a pass up to Verdun, Reims, St Michel and Paris. Lots of territory and took about 6 days to make the round trip. It was worth seeing. "Gay Paree" don't mistake its name. Sure is a High Flyer. Only had 48 hours there, 24 going and 24 coming back. Not much time so had to hurry our sight seeing. Saw a bit of the Louvre, Eifel Tower, Big Ferris Wheel, Pantheon de Guerre and several other points of interest. Its principle boulevards and avenues are lined with light artillery. The Arch of Triumph is surrounded with implements of war. Saw where "Big Bertha" dropped a big shell at Notre Dame. Reims is sure a wreck. Was before the war a city of about 110,000 pop. and a manufacturing city. It was under shell fire for almost 4 years as you know and I think I am safe in saying that there is not a house in town that was not hit. People are coming back and clearing up ready to start over. It is sure a sorry looking mess. The dough-boys sure made Chateau Thierry look like 30 cents with the 3 rubbed out. In your mind's eye you could see those boys go over the river and up the hill. Lots of graves are scattered here and there with only a small wooden cross and a helmut to mark it. Most of the graves you see there are Dutch. They are re-burying the American boys in a National Cemetery up near Verdun. Have forgotten the name of the place. Verdun is pretty well tore up but not so much as Reims. The large forts around Verdun held the Dutch up. We were out to one of the forts, and talk about shell holes. They sure have them there. The ground so tore up that you sink in over

your shoe tops. There is where you see how heavily the French lost men. Graves as thick as mushrooms. Sometimes 5 and 6 graves in a shell hole. Bones scattered everywhere where a shell had torn into graves. I sure would hate to be there after night, B-o-o-o. The "uncannyness" of it makes you feel "creepy". A French sargeant took 4 of us boys thru one of their underground forts, Fort Daumonte, and I mean to say it's a dandy. St Michel is not so badly tore up. But if Heinie had not got out when he did the Yanks sure would have made it look worse than Reims. They had one of the neatest barrages laid that ever was launched. But Heinie couldn't stand the mustard. He left "pronto". We didn't stay long in St Michel. I sure learned lots on that trip. If one never has been there he can't begin to understand what the boys went thru. They sure deserve to be rewarded for the fights they put up. They sure had a "he-man's" job and made good at it. Then at one time Congress tried to pass a law to bar wound and service stripes and other insignia. It would have hit the boys hard.

I see you got my letter of 3/24. Am very glad you did, you have some idea now. But wait until I get home. Probably there will be no censor there ha! ha! Plunkett left things in a \_\_\_\_\_ mess. He was sure some bird. Say what's getting into the pates of those young birds over there (?) That stunt of P.I.'s was sure surprising. Guess I'll have to write that lad a "note". Gosh, guess I'll be considered a d\_\_\_\_old bachelor by the time I get home ?!#O/ Well it may be so but to think of all the boys tying up. Afraid our old "gang" will all torn up. Then its me for the west coast or Alaska. Haven't made up my mind which it will be yet. What does Paul aim to do? Live on that 10 acres of his? Well, here's luck to them. I'm like Shady, I'm looking for all the brothers to be married and have a family before I get out of the A.E.F. Wouldn't that be "criminal"? I 'low it would. Had the old Homesick Blues last eve again. Thot I would die if I didn't get away from this God forsaken place. Yes, we are in an Embarcation Centre but we are permanent cadre and have to make things "pleasent" for the boys that are going home. That's the hard part of it. We never had anyone to fix up for us when we're on a move. If we couldn't steal some grub somewhere we had to go hungry till some of the kitchens were fixed up. And then had to find our own way and do our own policing up. When I get home I sure will be a wiser guy than when I left. Then when I am a "free man", look out. I sure am anxious to get home, dear. I am just losing time now. I sure would like to roam over those favorite haunts of mine away back there in Indiana, and revisit the places where you and I enjoyed ourselves so much. I sure didn't know how wealthy I was a few short years ago when I could go where I pleased, that is, if I had the price, and stay as long as I wished. But now, Oh Lord \*O?!!\* But when I get home I'm going to make up for lost time and if you try to stay with me, you are going to have to be a good one. ha! ha! There is a big dance out at the Indiana Hut of the Y.M.C.A. for the old members of the 84th, but didn't care to go so I tried to write you a long letter. Glad, I think we will be started from here in about 6 or 8 weeks. That isn't official, just opinion. But I hope it isn't much longer than that. For I sure want to get back to "God's Country". That's where I belong, they don't need me over here any longer, but they don't seem to think that way. B-r-r-r. Haven't seen Shady for quite a bit. Had intended to go over tomorrow (Sun) but the bulletin board says no passes, so there you are. What did Fred Armstrong have to say about "sunny France". Gave it a good name, I suppose. Well about all the A.E.F. is home or geting started. Well I have quite a bunch of souvenirs, post cards and other small things. Going to send them home soon, rather unhandy to have them around. There goes "lights out" so will have to ring off and tumble in. Good night dearest. I'll be home soon or hope to, then probably we can enjoy ourselves a bit. Hope you have heard from me often. Bon nuit, mon Cherie, Lots of love,

Cpl Reed Parent

*May 4 - Get paid soon, good. Detail at Big Range. Beats very devil. Beat it this afternoon.*

*Dance tonight.*

*May 5 -Detail again, cold, rainy.*

*May 6 - Detail this a.m. Got paid off at 10 a.m. 207, very good. Paid old debts. Got back my American money. Charge of detail this p.m., very good. Reg, Joe and I to Change, good time. Hell in billet at 11 p.m. Beaucoup quarrel.*

*May 7 - Off today. Tried to get pass over to see Shady, couldn't. Closed our camp. Went out to ball game. Missed drill and retreat. Look for a bunch of hell, had to hide.*

*May 8 - In charge of quarters, not much doing. Boys go on guard tonight, sure glad I'm not on. Two letters from G. Wrote G. Loaned Mills 13 f. Went out to get good bath and clean clothes ha! ha! A fine day.*

Camp D'Auvuors (to Terre Haute)  
5/8/1919

My Dearest Glad,

Just rec'd your 4/14 and 4/18 just a few minutes ago and sure was glad to hear from you. Was beginning to think that you had surmised I had started home again and was afraid to write for fear I would not receive them(?) Never stand back on that one minute. If I don't receive them in all probability they will follow me to the states. I had all hopes of hearing from you (?) when out of about 150 letters, I rec'd no word from you. "Crabbing" again, ain't I? Well us boys can't keep from "crabbing" any more. I don't understand why I don't hear from the folks. It looks like "old Toolie" would drop me a line once in a while. But guess he is having too good a time to bother about writing me over here in this "devil's country". Haven't seen Shady for some time but expect to go over Sunday. Was off duty yesterday but couldn't get a pass out of camp. Our "top kick" is a fine fellow and a few were "let off" on the "QT". But dodging all the officers is some job. I would as soon work. There are beaucoup (very many) officers here at the "big shoot", so you see there is some "deploying" to be done. Ha! Ha! Can you "compre" (understand) all that? If you can you are "tres bon" (very good). Well, I spect I had better "cut that line" or you will think I am either "drunk or crazy". I know I am OK as far as the former is concerned but don't know about the latter ha! ha!

So you think that new address is a "Johah" Eh? So do I! Guess that's the reason why the A.E.F. gets such large envelopes. You see that A.E.F is the same for the whole Second Depot area whose centre is LeMons, seeski? So you didn't get my letter mixed up with some other Yank's at Cherbourg Eh? Ha! Ha! Alright but be careful next time. Camp D'Auvours is about 10 kilos (6 1/2 mi) east of Le Mons, (Sarthe) Cherbourg is on the coast. You had some fun with Shady's Toot-Sweet Eh. Just wait till I get home, I'll "parle beaucoup por voi"?? Now get on your thinking cap ha! ha! No, I'll not keep you guessing, it means "I'll speak lots of French for you" seeski?

Did you see a good program at the "Hippo"? Lord how I would like to enjoy a good show once more. We get to see quite a few A.E.F. shows over here but the "girls" are all men. But the imitation is fine. Lots of the boys swear that they are the "genuine fair sex" but they're not. Sounds funny, doesn't it? Saw a good one up at Gay Paree (Paris) the other day. "The Whiz Bang Follies". American soldiers oh! oh! Steady on that "compre" stuff ha! ha!

Yes, you are certainly getting started out good on the farm. I hope your father is lucky with his crops and all. It it takes work to make out your father will sure "go over the top" Here's hoping.

Get sick! Well I guess not. Nothing could get me down now but cold steel or hot lead (?) ha! ha! I feel pretty good most of the time but hot weather here is going to be bad.

Say, for the love of mike, how long did Toolie stay down there? Hasn't he got a job? I thought he was working all the time. Guess I'll have to give that "rook" some "special instructions" (?) No wonder he never writes, "too busy".

So you received quite a few letters from me all at the same time, did you? Good. You should have gotten several. Lord but I will be glad when I get back to God's Country where I will be free to roam, which I expect to do "beaucoup". Lord girl, you are not one whit more lonesome than I. You might say I'm in hot water all the time I'm idle. At nights while I'm on guard and your relief is out all you can do is sit there and think and then my mind travels back across the "Briny Blue" to "two spots" in "little ole Indiana". My own home and some one else's. It sure is torturesome when you are so far away and just dying to get back. Every little instance comes back to one so clear as tho it were yesterday. But the God's willing I'll be home in a few more short months. Then I 'low we will make them all step some Eh? Lord, wish I had a real feather bed to flop on. These old bunks over here are hard as bricks and a Jonah to Christ himself. Excuse me, I am afraid my grammer and speech is badly warped. We are under no restraint here as far as talk is concerned, so every sentance has several cuss words tied onto it. It's awful but it's true. But there is one time when we always watch how we talk and that is where the Y.M.C.A. or Red cross women are. But in case of an "error" your pardon is granted without hard feelings. Because they realize how it is.

Was out to a frog (French) dance the other night. Don't get excited, I didn't fish for any of these "coy madamoselles". Not me. They are winners and all that but-- There's always a comeback. I and another lad equally as lonesome got out on the floor and romped around a bit.. It would tickle you pale green to see these frogs do their dance, it's sure the limit. Talk about the grapevine, it has nothing on this.

Well the big A.E.F. shoot is going fine. I have been out to watch a bit. The range is about 2000 yds east of here, you can see it plainly and the guns are rattling all day long. Sure is great sport. The whole A.E.F. is represented here. Sure is a fine range. We had to shoot last January. I made sharpshooter on a non qualifying course. It didn't make me anything but was very good shooting.

I'll bet you say this is a real for sure "crazy letter". But I just got started and couldn't stop. I could write on for an hour but of course it wouln't be interesting to you so had better finnis (finish).

Glad, do me a favor please. Tell the folks to write to me. I have asked them several times and seems to do no good. I am very anxious to hear how they are getting along after Ralph has left home. I have written a dozen times and have rec'd no answer. It worries me like the 'devil' not to know how they are getting along.

The company is on guard tonight but I wasn't on for a change. So the barracks will be quiet tonight so I ought to get a very good sleep such as it is. It sure is hard to try to 'couchette' (sleep) while the company is here at the billet, they are noisy until 11 o'clock. Do you think you can learn beaucoup francaise from this letter? ha! ha!

Please excuse this crazy letter but heard some fairly good news this afternoon and am rather elated. Now don't be too hasty on the guess.

Well dearest, must close and get ready to check quarters and then turn in. Good night (bon nuit) little girl, good luck. Lovingly, your own  
Corp "Reeder"

*May 9 - In charge of quarters again today. Very quiet so far. Inspection, passed OK*

*May 10 - Not on detail today so beat it.*

*May 11 - Inspection today. Passed OK. Got pass to see Shady. Pass read to LeMons but took a chance. Had very good time. Wrote Mother while I was there. Everything OK. so far. Got letter from G. Saw beaucoup snapshots from home. Wrote to G that nite.*

*May 12 - In charge of detail this p.m. (K...with ...??) Joe and I went for a walk in eve. Major gave us a calling. Wrote G and Ruby.*

*May 13 - On guard tonight, on police detail this a.m. Nothing to do so I "allez". Took good bath, put on summer underwear, ah grand. Went on guard, was released so I allez again. Made several sore but not my fault. Had good time in cafe next door. Good sleep, no revelie. Nothing to do today so help Reg with rifles. Slept this p.m., getting along fine now. Good show last nite,*

*May 15 - On detail today, in charge of dump, Snitger and I. Two letters from Glad, one from Mother dear. Had to open it first, apologies to G's letr. Things may straighten out after all. Must go see Shady and tell him. A nice day so far.*

*May 16 - Not on duty today. Lots of running around. Paper from home. 8 mos in France.*

*May 17 - Pug, Joe and I went for shell (?) Nothing exciting. Got called by top. Joe and I to (change..?) o hell. Joe fell as he got off truck, beaucoup blesse.*

*May 18 - In charge of qtrs, Joe and I. Evtnng OK Beaucoup bents (?) as KC went over. Got called by "Y" lady because didn't speak She sure made an ass of herself. Damn them, haven't any good words for them. They want officers, more francs. Can say lots but won't unless-----.*

*May 19 - Got up late this a.m. feeling tough. Went for a walk, might do me good. Nothing else.*

*May 20 - On police detail this a.m., go on guard tonight. Good sleep and clean up. Mount guard at 3:15. Cpl 3rd relief. Feel tough as the devil.*

*May 21 - Came off guard this eve. Beaucoup milad, good bath. To bed early.*

*May 22 - A day off, strange. Drill 30 min this a.m. Letr from G, one from P.D. Everything cross ways. Got pass to see Shady, felt too tough. Went to change a few min.*

*May 23 - Nothin doin this a.m. On detail this p.m. 11 mo ago yesterday was to see Glad for last time before Army.*

*May 24 - Notn doing today. Run around a bit this eve. Wrote G.*

Belgian Camp, France (no envelope)  
5/24/19

My dearest Gladys,

Got a letter from you at 11:30 a.m. and here it is 1:00 p.m. and answering it toot sweet, how is that for fast service. Pretty good, eh? Well, I haven't any news to pass on to you so maybe this letter will be rather dry. Everything spells spring here now, only the spring showers we had back home. It is awful hot and dusty and the camp is very sandy. One thing strange

about this sand is that when its dry its powdery but when wet it holds the water worse than clay back home. We had a day off yesterday and expected to go over to see Shady but had "corn willie" for mess and as a result I had a pain in the region of "noble" (?) So had to do "bunk fatigue" the rest of the day which went against the grain (?) ha! ha! Had a chance for a pass this afternoon but didn't take it. I want to go over tomorrow if I am not on duty. Got a letter from old P.I. and Dom (**Reed's brother Ronald**) the other day. He told me the "whichness of the whyness" seeski? He told me if I needed any money just let him know. ha! ha! Up to now I have \$10.00 good old American green backs. Hope to get hold of lots more soon. Everything is so high you can't save anything and that trip to the front and Paris sure set me back. I'll pull out of that payday, tho.

So you had to go and get the mumps did you, ha! ha! Wish I could have seen you. Bet I would have had some fun, ha! ha! ha! I'll bet you were a "cute looking sight" tee! hee! You see I'm missing everything while I'm over here. Now don't go laughing up your sleeve for I've "dun had 'em" ha! I'll bet Jake and Louie treated you royal. They are sure a fine pair. They never will be anything but kids. I sure would like to see them.

Everything is "summery" there, is it? God! I wish I were there. Even the "kittens and pigs" would be a welcome sight. Even an old dead tree from Indiana would make me yell for joy. If I don't get away from this place some of these days I am going to try looking down the muzzle of my 45 cal Colts pistol. That don't sound very sensible but at times it is almost impossible to endure it here. So "Pick" and "Gib" are home, are they? and Scott and Mike in the States. Oh hell----

So "Grandma" Hughes" had a bad accident did she. That's sure too bad. Tell her I am very sorry and I hope she gets along alright and very soon. And Lena isn't going to Terre Haute? You have my curiosity up now. Now unravel the next time you write. Compre? Yep I got a trip to Paris, I wrote to you about it.

No, I never told you about me having the flu, or any of my sickness. In fact I have been lucky. The flu come near getting me. But outside of that I have gotten along fine. Had the flu in southern France in Oct. That was after we had lost our company and there were only a few of the non coms. left. An old French lady pulled me out of it. It left me with a cold which I still have and worries me considerably at times. Guess I'll get OK tho. So much wet weather made me rheumatic for a spell but everything going fine now. Yep, I sure want to get home bad. Just think, I've been over here 8 mo the 16 of this mo. and 11 mo in the service today. Isn't that a long time. Soon will have the second service stripe. I put on my first one over two months ago. Doesn't that sound Veteren like.

Say, while you were up in Tangier did you hear anything of Toolie's affairs? I sure am anxious to hear, so if you hear anything please let me know, will you? For I am sure worried about them. I wish to Christ I could get out of this army and give them a lift. God knows they need it. But no chance. I'll be here till the last one, I recon. I am just about that lucky.

Well, dearest, this isn't much of a letter at all. But little girl, I have got those old Homesick Blues and I'll be D--- if I write that to you. But at that you know where I want to be and a certain one I want to be present. You get me don't you, dear. Here's hoping you get a good place at T. H. and get along fine.

Am going to send you a sample of French paper money, Let's have your idea of it. Each tells which bank it's from. The two little flowers are from before Verdun where the American

doughboys advanced. Would like you to keep them for me. Have got quite a lot of little stuff I can send in letters.

Well, must close. Goodbye and Good luck. Will write again soon.

Always your own -s-s-s-s Corp Reed Parent

*May 25 - Usual inspection. Went over to see Shady. Hot, good time tho. LeMons sure fast place now. Walk home from LeMons.*

*May 26 - CQ today. Co. goes on guard this eve. Don't know how happen to miss (me) Went walk this eve.*

*May 27 - Helped Reg. this a.m. Warm day. Boys get off guard this eve.*

*May 28 -*

*May 29 -*

*May 30 - Day off. To Le Mons to fight.*

*May 31 - Co on guard, me to Hqrs*

Belgian Camp ( no envelope)  
5/31/19

My dearest Glad,

Got your Terre Haute letter day before yesterday. So by this time you are very well settled in school life. Just you and Helen are attending. I thot Lena was figuring on going all the time too. I'm glad you like your studies and the place where you stay. That will be fine for you and time will pass well. I sure wish you all the good luck in the world. But you know that even tho I don't say it, don't you? That little 10 block walk twice a day is just what you need to keep up "circulation" (?) It will give you a good apetite and about the right amount of exercise. ha! Now that sounds old and advising to an Educated School Maam, doesn't it? ha! ha! Spect I had better stop that before you become "disgusted" and stamp your foot and swear vengeance.

Well, dear, everything here is the same old 5 and 6. Nothing new at all. Don't know when we will get away from this place. In a month or two, I hope. In our end of the camp we have lots of Locust trees and they are in bloom now. It sure makes things more livable. Takes away a whole lot of the monotony of things.

Was over to see Shady a while last Sunday. He didn't have much to say, only growling about the heat. An order has been passed here in camp that blouses must be worn at all times. Imagine a heavy woolen o.d. blouse on this time of year, and hot -- O Lord. I wish I had my say on a few things which I haven't.

Went over to Le Mons yesterday afternoon. Saw some fine boxing bouts between the French and the Yanks. That's all there was there for me. Never did like that berg. Then to top it off I had to walk home. Too many men on the truck. Got about half way home and ---- it rained. O L--. Got to our barracks about 1:00 a.m. So imagine how easy it was to roll out at "first call" this morning. I sure was sore enough to swear. Yesterday was market day in town and you should have seen us boys buying. (?) I have gotten so I can ask more questions than a lawyer and that's going some, Eh! You remember you have told me before I ought to go into law, well, I'm about 100% advanced from that. Now when I get home just come on with your questions and I think we can have a little contest. ha! ha! More than "likely" you will have a few weeks to rest up in after school is out, but that will be to your advantage. ha! ha! No, to be more fair to you I think I will get home about the time you leave school. Now that is just personal

opinion but I have hopes. And dearest, I am coming down for a whole weeks rest up. That is with your permission. But without said permission I would be A.W.O.L., subject to arrest and confinement, and reduced. ha! ha! I haven't heard from home for a long time. Guess they think that one letter every 2 or 3 months is sufficient. There's where people are different.

Say, Glad, talk about "glad rags", you should see the streets here in France. Oh Lord. The madamoiselles of Gay Paree, they come to Le Mons. In fact, "follow the crowd" kind. They are good to look at but-- they are worse than rattlesnakes. Compre?

So you are wondering about Grace and Shady? Well, Glad, Shady is a "funny guy" about anything like that. To be truthful he seems interested, but you can't tell much about him. I would be glad if he could get a good woman to take care of him for he is entitled to the best there is. The other day he gave me his address on an envelope from Grace. I told him I was going to write her. Says he "Go ahead, haven't I been writing to your girl?" He is a puzzle to me on that line.

Well, dearest, I'm like you. Wish I was home. That's all I can think of all the time. I am sure a homesick lad sometimes. But who could blame me? You see I know who is waiting for me back in God's country, therefore the reason. Compre! Mon Cherie!

Well dearest, it is almost time for retreat so had better close. Please excuse bad writing as I have a very rickety table to perform on. Take care of yourself and here's wishing you all the good luck in the world from a True Pal. Must close now. -s

Always your own -s  
Corp Reed Parent  
Guard Co #110  
Belgian Camp A.P.O. 762  
Amer Exp Forces

*June 1 - Big inspect by Gen Jack. was not there. Co represented.*

*June 2 - Our day off. Beaucoup couchette. Went to Evie Le Veque's. Saw (kids) swim ha! ha!  
at old lady's, saw fair bout at K.C. Got paid 223.00.*

*June 3 - Same as usual. Detail. Started volley ball at co. Good exercise.*

*June 4 - Rady and I on hike thru country. Rady near got bit by dog. ha! On detail this p.m., was  
not used. Little scrap over crap game.*

*June 5 - Started volley ball this eve, bon game. Have two good teams (?) Hell for certain.*

*June 6 - Things looking good to get out. Resquaded. Inspect in barracks.*

*June 7 - Co goes on guard tonite. Am room orderly, good job. Walked out a bit over in woods  
behind N Y Cafe.*

*June 8 - Notin today. Helped Reg with supplies. Sent G packages.*

*June 9 - Our day off, practiced rolling packs. Step in p---?*

*June 10 - Not on detail. Got word to be ready to move in short notice. Cleaned up, got to bed at  
12:30. Help Reg.*

*June 11 - Left Belgian camp at 12:00, headed for Ford camp. Hauled packs. "Y" treated us fine.  
Got F camp about 4:00, out to tent camp. Over to see Shady. This is a hell of a place.  
Got lett from G.*

*June 12 - Hell of a camp. More sand than Sahara, awful dirty. Saw Shady and Jne Story, also  
Flan Lindley, some surprise. Eats rotten. Feel foxy tho. Must write home soon.*

*June 13 - Same old stuff. Stay close. Over to see flick. Inside inspect. Dam this tent life. Reg  
left today, sorry.*

- June 14 - Up early, had our field inspect. Hot and sandy. Cootie and vermin inspect, also would be bath. Over to see Shady. Good feed. Saw a bunch leave, thought it might be mine, I sure flew. Wrote to G. Nearly froze last nite.
- June 15 - Still waiting orders. Got up late. Fair meal. Cleaned up some. Shady, trieze miese ? and Slim were over to see me. Sure raised hell. Over to see new boys that come yesterday from B camp. Soon to know what and where.
- June 16 - Leave tomorrow about noon. Was over to see Flick
- June 17 - Packs rolled ready to leave. Never got to see Shady today. Moved out at 8 p.m. Loaded at forwarding camp, soon left there 10 p.m. for St. Nazarre, fair ride.
- June 18 - Reached St Nazarre at about 8 this a.m. Hiked out to camp #2. Dinner and inspect. Then to #1 camp. Get out today. Moved into barracks. God that sea sure looks fine to this lad.
- June 19 - Probably get away today. Hope so. Hot, dry, dusty. No eats, won't have to stand it long. No move tonight, hell. Over to "Y".
- June 20 - Up at first call. More inspect .Strip to waist, trousers down, mouth open. That sure is a dam old song. Guess we move today. Saw Lindley again today. Chicken for dinner can you imagine that? Left camp this eve 11:45 p.m., hiked back to St Nazarre. A small lunch at "Y" and Red Cross. Got aboard U.S.S. Pocohontus 2:30 a.m. A good place here Good bunks and eats. Big boat. Beaucoup couchette.
- June 21 - Got up real late. Moved over on other side of docks at noon. On guard this eve hell for awful Up all nite.
- June 22 - Getting ready to leave. Lots of drunken sailors. Left pier 12 o'clock French time (11 U.S.) Started thru docks, headed for open sea. Relieved of guard, took bath then to sleep. Out site of land
- June 23 - Lindley on same boat. everything going fine. Got some salt water soap.
- June 24 - Everything same as per usual. Water everywhere. Feel rather squeamish today. Fire drill. Porpoises. Movie in mess hall.
- June 25 - Slept fine last nite, feel good today. Cess pipe clogged, busted over bed, horrors, phew! Hell for awful. Saw ship.
- June 26 - Nothing new. Pipe busted again, damit. Movies this eve. Cootie and verm. inspect. Good sleep. Officers and nurses raising hell
- June 27 - Stiff breeze this a.m. Chilly. Stood muster. Got cigarettes and choc. Rady and I had a talk about coming home and wave come over side and nearly drowned both of us.
- June 28 - Everything going fine water smooth, warm. Met R. Krege, had talk with (Fl....me...?). Seems we're traveling hellish slow.
- June 29 - Water rough this a.m., geting worser with day. Big ones come over, got wet as hell. Red cross girl had awful time in wind, ha! Dam the Off. anyhow. Wonder how everything is going back in God's country. Movies tonight up on deck at midnite. Did some tall old thinking. Just a matter of days now. Hope to be home Jul 15. Won't I raise hell. Wish Shady was home. Guess he has started by this time, hope so.
- June 30 - Water still rough as devil. Big waves come over. Drowned 3 times, fun tho.
- July 1 - Journey nearly over, land in a day or two. Turned in fatigues, good to run around in uniform again. Off and A.N.C. having hell of a time. Somethin found ha! ha! No pictures tonite. Beaucoup bateau ici. Tres bon. Warm up. To bed late.
- July 2 - Hell started about 4 o'clock. Land! Oh! La! La! God looks fine. Steaming into harbour.

*Put below at 9:30. Boys wild as hell. Don't blame them a bit. Some browns gone ha! ha! AWOL Came up gang plank at 11:30 a.m. Stacked packs, had pictures taken.*

*Started to Camp Hill. 12:15 came thru Newport News, quite a few out. Hot, oh hell. Got to Camp Hill about 1:30. Got put into barracks, got de cootieized. Telegram to G and Mom. Got some good ole ice cream & coke. Detailed to shop, beat it. Issued 2 putts, khaki overcoat & gloves. Tumbled in for couchette at 12:30 in good ole U.S. once more. Vowed never to leave her again. Out for inspect. Pictures taken of Co.*

*July 3 - Up too dam early this a.m. Breakfast no good. Another inspect this a.m. Done washing, missed a good dinner, curses. another inspect. More washing, got bed socks and straw. Signed pay roll this eve. Good bath, more wash. Hot, oh hell. Fond memories of a kid 8 long years ago, also later? Things sure change. Got suit case, pulled one over on supply. Sgt. Just a matter of days now until I get back to civies and work. Much at stake. Big fight con. is off tomorrow.*

*July 4 - Day started off fine, got hot as the devil by noon. Deimer came out to camp, surprised to see him. Got Co picture. Don't seem like 4th. Everything here high as devil. Joe and I took a walk this eve, nothin here. Willard got whipped in 3rd round, dam fake. Beaucoup ice cream and coke. Bath, then to bunk.*

*July 5 - Got up too early again this a.m., dam. Nothin doin this a.m. Took a nap. Hotter than seven devils. Got paid this eve, \$33.60. Joe and I took a trip this eve. Guess we leave tomorrow for C. Taylor. God, I want to get home. Bet she is cussing me for not writing, can't blame her. Aim to step in on her if I get routed right. Then look out Reeder (& G). Took good bath and washed underwear, must get ready to turn in. Latest 8 o'clock in a.m.*

*July 6 - Up at first call, getting ready to leave here! Emptied bed sacks, rolled packs, fell out at 8:00. Co. busted up. Took a farewell shake of the pow. Started to train, boarded 9:30, left 10. Started out west. Good God how great! on the C & O thru Richmond on route to Cincinnati. Lots of ice cream, pies, and fruits. Ride getting tiresome but who gives a dam. Going home! Lots of pretty girls to wave at you. It's hell for sleeping in this car. Started into mountains tonight. Rained some this eve.*

*July 7 - Still going west. Dam near starved, one meal yesterday. Breakfast at 9:00. Still seeing beaucoup country, fine here in the mts. Dinner at 3 p.m. par bon. arrived Camp Taylor 9:00p.m. 34 hours on road, 3 meals. Tired, hungry and dirty but feeling fine, by God! Took us to barracks, good bath then to bed.*

*July 8 - Got up about 7 a.m., had good breakfast. Saw some of camp, bought few things. Rather hot here, not so hot as C. Hill, ha! Boys are all going home, God, makes me homesick. Went over to cook station, bought shoes and leggins, putts. We start thru mill tomorrow at 6:00 a.m.*

*July 9 - Went thru mill today, got all papers up and signed. Payroll a.m.. Now ready for my discharge. Joe and I went out to get suitcase, had an awful time, ha! ha!*

*July 10 - Got lectures this a.m. then back to barracks, got everything ready to go. Went after our bonus and discharge this eve, got them about 3:00. Got on car, went to town, got discharge. Left Louisville 6:40 p.m. for Indpls, arrived there 10:20, left there 11:45 for Brazil.*

*July 11 - Arrived Brazil 2:10 a.m.. Got room and some eats. Got up 5 a.m.went to train, left Brazil 6:25 for Tangier, arrived there 7:40. Home again, sure is great! Found Mother*

*in garden Ha! Ha! Wired Glad, saw beaucoup ami today. My old overseas and Army diary is now finished. It sure has served me great and is a good reference. A fine thing to read over when I'm in a thoughtful mood.*

**This poem was in diary, dated 11/29/18, Camp D'auvours, France.**

*I'm going back to the land of snow,  
Where you cannot hear the bugles blow.  
Where there's no more reveile nor retreat,  
No more lining up when you go to eat.  
No lining up in columns of twos,  
No drilling around in hob nailed shoes.  
No more rice and half done beans,  
No more coffee minus sugar and cream.  
No more mess sargeant who won't feed double,  
When I can eat all I want without any trouble.  
No more firing till you can't work,  
No more mail opened by the company clerk.  
No more non-com yelling "fall in",  
And drill you around till you're all in.  
Of course the Capt and Lieuts are very good,  
But sometimes they'll put you to chopping wood.  
The top sargeant, he's the man  
Who'll put you in the guard house and don't give a dam.  
Now don't mistake my meaning, men,  
I'm going back to the Army again -  
In my next verse I'll tell you when.*

*When the war is over and the world is free,  
When the Kaiser dies and leaves Germany to me.  
When the Atlantic Ocean goes dry as land,  
And the whales and fishes swim in the sand.  
When the Pacific Ocean turns to purest gin -  
Then I'll go back to the Army again.*